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HOUSE BILL 2429  
By Odom

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-1-132; Section 63-7-106; Section 63-7-123 and Section 63-7-207, relative to nurses.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-1-132(c), is amended by deleting the words "nurse practitioner and".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-106, is amended by deleting subsection (g) in its entirety.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-123, is amended by deleting subsections (a), (b) and (c) in their entirety, and by substituting instead the following:

(a)(1) "Advanced practice nurse" means a registered nurse with a master's degree or higher in a nursing specialty and national specialty certification as a nurse practitioner, nurse anesthetist, nurse midwife, or clinical nurse specialist.

(2) Nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives, and clinical nurse specialists holding such education and practice credentials may apply to the board for a certificate to practice as an advanced practice nurse including authorization to use the title "advanced practice nurse" or the abbreviation "APN". No other person shall assume

such title or use such abbreviation or any other words, letters or signs to indicate that the person using the same is an advanced practice nurse.

(3) An applicant for a certificate to practice as an advanced practice nurse pursuant to §63-7-123, shall pay an initial fee as set by the board as well as a biennial renewal fee as set by the board.

(b)(1) A nurse anesthetist applying for a certificate to practice as an advanced practice nurse who holds a Tennessee registered nurse license in good standing and current national specialty certification as a nurse anesthetist shall be exempt from the requirement of a master's degree or higher in a nursing specialty if licensed in Tennessee and holding national specialty certification as a nurse anesthetist prior to July 1, 2005.

(2) A nurse midwife applying for a certificate to practice as an advanced practice nurse who holds a Tennessee registered nurse license in good standing and current national specialty certification as a nurse midwife shall be exempt from the requirement of a master's degree or higher in a nursing specialty if licensed in Tennessee and holding national specialty certification as a nurse midwife prior to July 1, 2005.

(c)(1) The board shall grant prescriptive privilege to advanced practice nurses who request prescriptive privilege and who meet the education and qualifications, as defined by the board pursuant to §63-7-207(14), sufficient to prepare such persons to prescribe, administer, dispense and procure prescription drugs, including controlled substances listed in Schedules II, III, IV and V of Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 4.

(2) A nurse practitioner who holds a certificate of fitness to prescribe in Tennessee and a Tennessee registered nurse license in good standing shall be eligible for a certificate to practice as an advanced practice nurse with prescriptive privilege upon passage of this act.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-207, is amended by deleting subsection 14 in its entirety and substituting instead the following language:

(14)(A) Establish and examine the education and qualifications required of a registered nurse applying for a certificate to practice as an advanced practice nurse.

(B) Establish and examine the education and qualifications required of an advanced practice nurse sufficient to prepare such persons to prescribe, administer, dispense and procure prescription drugs including controlled substances.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.